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PRESS RELEASE

PENSACOLA MAN GETS 17+ YEARS AS ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL

PENSACOLA, Fla. - United States Attorney Gregory R. Miller, Northern District of Florida, and Ralph C. Ostrowski, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Tampa Field Division announced today that Cedric DeShawn McPherson, 29, of Pensacola, Florida, was sentenced as an "Armed Career Criminal" by Senior U.S. District Court Judge Lacey A. Collier to serve 17 years and 7 months in federal prison for his possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

On April 10, 2005, McPherson was arrested by the Escambia County Sheriff's Office after answering a "shots fired" call on Truman Avenue in Pensacola. Upon responding to the area, a felony stop was initiated by deputies on a blue Cadillac in the vicinity. After being taken into custody, McPherson advised deputies he "was a drug dealer." A search of McPherson revealed marijuana packaged for sale and a .357 Magnum revolver was found where McPherson had been seated in the vehicle.

On June 21, 2005, McPherson was indicted by the federal grand jury in Pensacola in a one-count indictment, which charged McPherson with Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. On July 20, 2005, McPherson pleaded guilty to the charge in the indictment.

This federal prosecution was pursued as part of a joint Federal, State, and County initiative known as Project Safe Neighborhoods, designed to protect the public and reduce violent crime through the enforcement of federal laws and regulations regarding the possession of firearms by felons. It included deputies from the Escambia County Sheriff's Office and agents from ATF. Assistant United States Attorney Edwin Knight represented the government in this successful prosecution.

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